

Crime Victim Services News

Volume 2, Issue 1

August 2007

Welcome to the Illinois Attorney General's Crime Victim Services Division e-newsletter. In this bimonthly publication you will find information about our programs and upcoming events. If you have any questions about our services, you can call our toll free number, 800 -228-3368.

Office of the Attorney General
100 W. Randolph, 13th Floor
Chicago, IL 60601

Springfield Office:
500 South Second Street
Springfield, IL 62706

West Central Illinois Regional Office :
628 Maine Street
Quincy, IL 62301

Carbondale Office:
1001 East Main Street
Carbondale, IL 62901

Crime Victim Services Division
800 - 228 - 3368
312 - 814 - 2581

Fax
312 - 814 - 7105

Illinois Automated Victim Notification System

Illinois Automated Victim Notification (Illinois AVN) is a statewide service to empower and protect crime victims while also assisting law enforcement and victim service providers. It is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide information about custody and case status and automatic notification to those who register of any change in status. The toll-free number is 1-866-566-8439.

In July of 2003, www.vinelink.com was made available for offender information and registrations. This is a public website available on the Internet provided by Appriss, the vendor of the AVN system. In 2007, court information was added. Any interested person can access the site and look up the custody or court status related to an offender.

In July 2007 the **Illinois Department of Corrections** added a direct link to Vinelink from the Offender Search section of <http://www.vinelink.com> their home page. When the offender's page is displayed there is now a section asking if one would like to be notified of changes in the custody status. If one clicks on that box, they are taken directly to the vinelink section for that offender. <http://www.vinelink.com> In the one week that this feature was available the number of offender registrations increased significantly. **Illinois is the first state in the nation to have this link added to their state's DOC website.**

As of July 31, 2007, the AVN system has over 19,000 active registrations. For the month of July, 2007, there were over 6,000 new registrations and 34,537 searches.

For further information about Illinois AVN, please contact Mike Bastien, Statewide AVN Coordinator at 618-529-6405 or e-mail mbastien@atg.state.il.us

Upcoming SANE Events

The Illinois Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program is pleased to announce upcoming SANE trainings. The Office of Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan will host two Adult/Adolescent SANE trainings. The dates and locations are: September 10-14, 2007 at John A. Logan College in Carterville, IL and February 4-8, 2008 at Kishwaukee Hospital in DeKalb, IL.

Attorney General Madigan is proud to offer the first-ever pediatric SANE training in Illinois. This training will be at DePaul University in Des Plaines, October 1-5, 2007. Using specially trained nurses in hospital emergency departments to provide care for adult, adolescents and child survivors of sexual assault improves the patient's quality of care and increases conviction rates of sex offenders.

This free seminar is designed for the practicing SANE. To attend the Pediatric SANE training you must have completed a 40 hour Adolescent/Adult SANE training and have a letter from a pediatric preceptor.

If you are interested in attending or know anyone who is interested, we would be excited to have you participate. For more information regarding the classes, please see the Illinois Attorney General's website at www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov. You may register by emailing SpecialEvents@atg.state.il.us or calling 866-376-7215. You may also contact the Illinois SANE Coordinator, Julie Garner-Teno at 217-557-8135 or jgamerteno@atg.state.il.us.

VOCA National Training Conference

The 2007 VOCA National Training Conference is going to be held in Williamsburg, VA from September 17-21. Several members of the Attorney General's crime victim staff, in addition to staff from the Court of Claims, will attend the conference. The conference focus is to provide up-to-date information to improve the effectiveness and results of compensation programs across the country. The conference is sponsored by the Office for Victims of Crime and coordinated by the National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards.

Tips for Funeral Directors

Planning a funeral for a loved one is incredibly difficult in all situations but becomes more difficult when the family is also dealing with the shock of a violent crime. The family of a violent crime victim is forced to try to come to terms with their loss while also trying to learn the criminal justice system and make funeral arrangements. As a funeral director helping a family of a victim of violent crime fill out an application, it is important to keep the following tips in mind:

You are not required to evaluate victim eligibility.

- o There are many factors that the crime victim compensation program must consider when determining if a victim is eligible to receive compensation. The compensation staff will spend time sorting out the details of the crime. All you need to do is have the family fill out the application.

One application is necessary for the victim.

- o The funeral/burial expenses and loss of support for dependents of the deceased victim are all listed on the same application. Please help the family fill out as much information as possible, including listing all dependants of the victim. Only one family member needs to be listed as the claimant; this person needs to be over the age of 18 and needs to sign the application. However, please list the names of all those contributing to the funeral expenses, with their phone numbers, so all of the proper reimbursements can be made.

Some family members may also need a separate application for themselves.

- o Parents and children of deceased victims are eligible for compensation for their own counseling expenses. Please contact the Attorney General's Toll-Free number at (800) 228-3368 if you have any questions on who should fill out an application.

Goodbye and Good Luck!

After four and a half years as division chief of the Crime Victim Services Division, Jennifer Kuhn has moved on to serve as Corporate Relations Manager of the Allstate Domestic Violence Signature Program.

Jen will truly be missed in our office. Her commitment and dedication to victims of crime is unparalleled. Under her leadership, our division expanded to include the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners Program, which has trained hundreds of nurses around the state to more effectively treat sexual assault patients. Additionally, Jen's guidance has increased the number of victims our compensation program is able to assist. Her hard work has resulted in more applications received and legislative changes that have expanded what is covered in the statute.

Working with crime victims can sometimes be demanding and emotional; but Jen always remained positive and supported her staff throughout challenging moments. We hope to carry on her excellent efforts and performance in her absence.

We wish Jen luck in her new endeavors! We know that as a devoted advocate, she will continue to make a difference in the lives of victims.

Jen—Thank you for all you have done and continue to do!

Upcoming Events

Autism and Law Enforcement
September 18, 2007
Decatur, IL

For more information contact Eileen Baumstark-Pratt at 1-866-376-7215.

Autism and Law Enforcement
September 19, 2007
Elgin, IL

For more information contact Eileen Baumstark-Pratt at 1-866-376-7215.



LISA MADIGAN
ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL